

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 QUITO 03488 251401Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 SP-02 PM-03  
INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ICAE-00  
ACDA-10 L-01 /046 W  
-----113370 251406Z /46

O R 251455Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8323  
AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

S E C R E T QUITO 3488

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: PBOR, EC, PE  
SUBJECT: GOE OFFICIALS FURTHER DISCUSS RECENT PERUVIAN INTRUSIONS

REF: QUITO 3423

SUMMARY: FONOFF OFFICIAL GAVE FURTHER EXPLANATION TO CHARGE  
ON MAY 23 REGARDING PERUVIAN INTRUSIONS IN ECUADOREAN AIR AND  
SEA TERRITORY IN LAST TEN DAYS. CHIEF OF JOINT COMMAND ADMIRAL  
OLMEDO REVEALED TO CHARGE ON MAY 23 THAT ANOTHR INCIDENT---  
BUZZING OF AN ECUADOREAN BORDER TOWN--BY PERUVIAN PLANES--  
HAD OCCURRED SUBSEQUENT TO ASSURANCES MADE TO HIM BY RANKING  
PERUVIAN MILITARY THAT THERE WOULD BE NO REPITITION. ECUADOREAN  
AMBASSADOR IN LIMA REPORTED, ACCORDING TO OLMEDO, THAT  
INTRUSIONS COULD BE PART OF SCHEME TO PROVOKE ECUADOREAN RESPONSE  
AND DIVERT PERUVIAN PUBLIC OPINION FROM CURRENT PROBLEMS.  
OLMEDO SAID THAT HE AND FONMIN AYALA HAD ARGUED SUCCESSFULLY  
NOT TO CHALLENGE FURTHER INCURSIONS AND BE GOADED INTO ESCALATION.  
END SUMMARY.

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1. CHARGE MET WITH AMBASSADOR ALFREDO LUNA TOBAR, DIRGEN  
TERRITORIAL SOVEREGNTY, ON MAY 22 AT HIS REQUEST TO RECEIVE  
INFORMAL AIDE MEMOIRE RELATING TO ALLEGED PERUVIAN INCURSIONS  
INTO ECUADOREAN TERRITORY ON WHICH FONMIN AYALA HAD BREIFED  
CHARGE THE DAY BEFORE.

2. TEXT OF NOTE IS AS FOLLOWS:

ON FRIDAY, MAY 12 AT 11:15 A PLANE OF THE AIRLINE "TAME" IN REGULAR FLIGHT FROM LOJA TO GUAYAQUIL, MORE THAN 100 KMS WITHIN ECUADOREAN TERRITORY, ENCOUNTERED SURPRISINGLY AND DANGEROUSLY TWO PERUVIAN A-37 COMBAT PLANES, WHICH IN ADDITION TO VIOLATING ECUADOREAN AIR SPACE, WERE ON THE POINT OF CAUSING A VERY SERIOUS ACCIDENT OF UNFORESEEABLE CONSEQUENCES.

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS SUMMONED PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR ARTURO GARCIA TO HIS OFFICE ON MAY 17 IN ORDER TO EXPRESS THE PROTEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR FOR THIS VIOLATION OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, IN ORDER TO PRESENT EVIDENCE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE INCIDENT, AND ALSO IN ORDER TO REQUEST AN INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT AND ASSURANCES FROM THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT THAT IT WOULD ADOPT THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO AVOID A REPITION. THE ECUADOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER DELIVERED TO AMBASSADOR GARCIA AN AIDE MEMOIRE CONTAINING THE CONCRETE FACTS OF THE PROTEST.

THE PERUVIAN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE MANIFESTED THAT HE DEEPLY REGRETTED THE INCIDENT, EXPRESSED HIS ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE INCIDENT, AND OFFERED TO TRANSMIT THE ECUADOREAN PROTEST TO LIMA AND INFORM THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR OF THE REPLY OF HIS GOVERNMENT.

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ON THE 18TH OF THE MONTH, AMBASSADOR GARCI TRANSMITTED A CABLE MESSAGE FROM THE PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IN WHICH HE ASKED THAT HIS REGRET FOR THE OCCURRENCES ABOVE NOTED BE EXPRESSED TO FOREIGN MINISTER AYALA AND TO INDICATE THAT APPROPRIATE ACTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO AVOID A REPITION.

3. LUNA TOBAR ADDED THAT THE TAME FLIGHT HAD BEEN FIVE MINUTES OUT OF LOJA ON A COURSE FOR GUAYAQUIL WHEN THE PERUVIANS APPEARED OUT OF THE NORTH RPT NORTH, INDICATING THAT THEY HAD BEEN MUCH FURTHER INLAND. (ECUADOR HAS NO AIR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM AT THE PRESENT TIME AND THE PLANES WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE BEEN DETECTED EXCEPT FOR THE NEAR COLLISION WITH THE AIRLINER). THE PLANES WERE AT AN ALTITUDE OF 8000 FEET, OR LESS THAN 2000 FEET ABOVE THE GROUND WHEN THE INCIDENT OCCURRED. THE PERUVIANS CAME WITHIN 100 METERS OF THE AIRLINER, ACCORDING TO LUNA TOBAR.

4. LUNA TOBAR ALSO SAID THAT THE PERUVIAN WARSHIP WAS DISCOVERED OFF THE COAST OF SALANGO ISLAND OPPOSITE MANABI ON THE MAINLAND. HE INDICATED THAT IT WAS A SHIP FOR TRANSPORTING HELICOPTERS.

5. CHIEF OF THE JOINT COMMAND VICE ADMIRAL RENAN OLMEDO

REVEALED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A REPORT OF ANOTHER INCIDENT FOLLOWING ASSURANCES MADE TO HIM PERSONALLY BY PERUVIAN NAVY MINISTER PARODI, AND INDIRECTLY BY AIR CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL JORGE TAMAYO, ON MAY 14 THAT THERE WOULD BE NO REPEATS. ACCORDING TO OLMEDO, TWO PERUVIAN FIGHTER PLANES BUZZED THE BORDER TOWN OF ZAPOTILLO (LOJA PROVINCE) AND TWO SMALL GARRISONS NEAR ZAPOTILLO BUT FURTHER FROM THE FRONTIER.

6. OLMEDO RELATED THAT THE ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR LIMA HAD SENT A MESSAGE EXPRESSING HIS CONCERN THAT THESE INCIDENTS MIGHT BE RELATED TO CURRENT PERUVIAN PUBLIC ORDER PROBLEMS AND MIGHT HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO PROVOKE AN ECUADOREAN RESPONSE IN ORDER TO DIVERT THE PUBLIC FROM ITS INTERNAL PROBLEMS. THIS MAY BE TRUE, SAID OLMEDO, BUT HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT  
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THERE WAS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS WAS STRICTLY A PAF SHOW CONNECTED WITH ITS POLITICAL RIVALRY WITH THE NAVY AND ARMY. HE DOUBTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PLANES INVOLVED IN THE TWO SEPARATE INCIDENTS COULD HAVE BEEN ACCIDENTLY OFF-COURSE.

7. OLMEDO INDICATED THAT IN THE DISCUSSION OF COUNTER-MEASURES, FAE COMMANDER GENRAL LUIS LEORO HAD ARGUED FOR CHALLENGING THE INTRUDERS. OLMEDO SAID THAT HE AND FOREIGN MINISTER AYALA HAD ARGUED THE STRONGEST FOR A PASSIVE REACTION AND HAD WON. FOR THIS REASON ALL FAE PLANES HAVE BEEN ORDERED AWAY FROM THE FRONTIER REGION. THE PROBLEM WAS THAT THE INCURSIONS HAD BECOME COMMON KNOWLEDGE WITHIN THE ECUADOREAN ARMED FORCES AND FAILURE OF THE HIGH COMMAND TO ORDER A VIGOROUS RESPONSE HAD PROVOKED CRITICISM OF THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP BY LOWER RANKING OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN.  
CORR

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## Message Attributes

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